

Volume 14, Issue 3

2008 Urban and Community Grant Program

Goal is to help fund community-based tree projects. Deadline is June 20th.

The Delaware Forest Service invites municipalities and homeowner groups throughout Delaware to apply for a 2008 Urban and Community Forestry Grant, which can fund up to 50 percent of the cost of a community-based tree project.

There is a \$5000 maximum in each of two grant categories: tree planting or tree management. The program's goal is to diversify, enhance, and promote the proper stewardship of Delaware's urban forest resources. Since its inception in 1991, over \$1.5 million in grants have helped pay for the costs of planting, pruning, or removing hazardous trees on public lands in Delaware. Last year's program awarded 36 grants totaling over \$120,000.

"This year, we're trying to encourage new applications by offering extra points in the grant award process to first-time participants," said Henry Poole, Urban Forestry Coordinator.

The points are part of a ranking system that the grant committee will use to award the funds at its meeting in July. Other factors considered include whether the project will: benefit urban tree canopy, improve water quality, involve volunteers, or serve an educational goal. Extra points also go to Delaware's current Tree City USAs or Delaware Tree-Friendly communities.

"We hope to broaden the reach of our grants, while getting more folks involved in community tree projects," Poole said.



Delaware's Urban and Community Forestry Coordinator Henry Poole appeared on the Comcast "Newsmakers" program this month to discuss the benefits of trees in cities and towns. He urged communities interested in applying for this year's UCF Grant program to get organized and apply before June 20th.

The deadline to apply is June 20th. Grant materials and applications at: http://dda.delaware.gov/forestry.

For further information, contact Henry Poole at (302) 659-6705, or send an email to henry.poole@state.de.us



Coming this fall: DFS and the Community Forestry Council are teaming up with the Delaware Nursery and Landscape Association to begin

"Spruce Up! Delaware.

This is a pilot program to encourage homeowners to plant trees on their property by using a \$10 off coupon at participating retailers. Details forthcoming.

May 2008





CLUES:

- It's said to be the oldest tree species in the world, originating thousands of years ago in China.
- It is known as a hardy tree, resistant to both pests and pollution, making it a good choice for urban plantings.
- Each tree is either male or female, but males are preferred because they don't litter sidewalks with a foul-smelling fruit.
- The fruit, however, can be used to make herbal supplements that you might find in health food stores.

So, what tree is it?

ANSWER on PAGE 4

Page 2 Evergreen

Volunteers Help Trees Take Root in Wilmington



Delaware's Urban Forestry Director Henry Poole puts the finishing touches on a newly-planted tree in Wilmington.

Dozens of volunteers showed up on a brisk Saturday morning last month near a Wilmington park to participate in a bare root tree planting sponsored by the Delaware Center for Horticulture. The March 29th event was a success on many levels, and it showed that planting trees can bring together people from various backgrounds who want to bring a greener future to urban areas.

"Last year in Eastlake Village, we planted about 60 trees. It was really fun, it was a great neighborhood.... (so) I decided it was something really worth doing and learning about," said Union Park Gardens Association President Adele Meehan. "I think the bare root tree is terrific."

"It's great to plant new trees in the community and make it better," said Matthew Quirey, a graduate student studying horticulture at the Univerity of Delaware who also participated.



DCH Executive Director Pam Sapko helps water a tree in Wilmington.

"I really enjoy trees... and this was a great way to be involved," Quirey said.

Johna Suton of Wilmington also had a great experience volunteering with the group. She was quick to list all the great things trees do for people.

"They give us shade, they provide things like wood and paper... and they help us breathe," she said.

She was also glad to learn how to plant a tree by actually doing it. She was quick to recount the various steps to plant the tree near where she stood.

"You've got to dig the dirt first, and then you've got to make sure it's deep enough," she explained.



Union Park Gardens Neighborhood Association President Adele Meehan gets set to water a newly-planted tree at the Wilmington event.



University of Delaware grad student Matthew Quirey participated in the tree planting to learn more about bare root trees and to help out the local community by getting involved.



Johna Suton from Wilmington learned how to plant a tree at the event. She thinks trees have many benefits, because "they help us breathe."

Destiny Finney of Wilmington also learned about tree planting for the first time, but above all, "I enjoyed that we got to have fun," she said.

Delaware Center for Horticulture's Executive Director Pam Sapko was also quick to label the event a resounding success.

'It's just terrific to get lots of people involved," Sapko commented. "And it gives them a hands-on appreciation for just what it takes to keep a tree going, so we're not taking our resources for granted. It's also very important for us to increase our tree canopy statewide, and to continue to have new trees coming along.'

For information about tree plantings and programs sponsored by partners in community forestry, contact the Delaware Center for Horticulture at www.dehort.org.



Destiny Finney stands near the tree she helped to plant at the park in Wilmington.

Volume 14, Issue 3 Fage 3

Governor Ruth Ann Minner celebrated Arbor Day at Redden State Forest, honoring Delaware's 23 Tree City USAs.



Tree City USAs that were unable to attend the ceremony were: Arden, Ardentown, Delaware City, Elsmere, Odessa, Wilmington, Milford, Smyrna, Dagsboro, and Dewey Beach



Kristen Krenzer from Middletown accepts Tree City USA award from Gov. Ruth Ann Minner.



Dover's James Lewis and David Morgan accept the award from Gov. Minner. Dover has been a Tree City for 19 years.



Bethany Beach's Melinda Lindy gets award from Gov. Minner.



Newark's Tom Zaleski receives Tree City honors from Gov. Minner.



Ocean View's Conway Gregory gets award from Gov. Minner.



Rick Passwaters and Bonnie Walls accept Bridgeville's award from Gov. Minner.



Agnes DiPietrantonio accepts Fenwick Island's award.



Dover Air Force Base's Steve Seip accepts the award from Gov. Minner. DAFB is a Tree City for the 16th year.



Millsboro Mayor Larry Gum and Faye Lingo get Tree City USA award from Gov. Minner.



Mayor Jim Ford of Lewes accepts the Tree City USA award.



Harrington's John Townsley receives award from Gov. Minner.



Mayor Ed Butler and Scott Colbourn accept Seaford's award from Gov. Minner.



Rehoboth Beach Mayor Sam Cooper receives the Tree City USA award.

Page 4 Evergreen

Governor Minner and the 2008 Poster Contest Winners





National Representative Nick Castoria Christ the Teacher, Newark



State Winner Rachel Winston Winston Learning Academy, Milford



Yusuf Kose Kindergarten Winner New Castle County



Iris Gonzalez Grade 1-2 Winner New Castle County



Alexandra Brevoort Grade 3-4 Winner New Castle County



Christian Hayes Kindergarten Winner Kent County



William Evans Grade 1-2 Winner Kent County



Samantha Pitts Grade 3-4 Winner Kent County



Delaney Collins Kindergarten Winner Sussex County





Timothy Venable Grade 1-2 Winner Sussex County

ANSWER to "What tree is it?"



The ginkgo tree was once thought to be extinct, but now it flourishes in towns and cities across Delaware. Its unique, fanshaped leaf is very distinctive, and the gingko has a reputation as a hardy urban street tree. This non-native tree is valued for its resistance to pests and disease. The ginkgo biloba extract used in herbal supplements is reported to improve mental function. Unfortunately, the extract comes from its fruit, one of the worst-smelling things to ever drop on a street or sidewalk. Each ginkgo tree has its own gender, and the fruit of the female tree is one "strong" reason that planting male trees is recommended.